

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **“Building a Foundation for a Healthy America” – Health Department Celebrates 2009 National Public Health Week – April 6-12, 2009**

“Building a Foundation for a Healthy America” is the theme for this year’s National Public Health Week celebration. The City’s Health Department will celebrate this theme April 6-12, 2009, with special events all week. National Public Health Week was established by the American Public Health Association (APHA), and is celebrated each year to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving the public’s health. “Public Health is all around us – from the smoke free restaurants we enjoy to the clean water we drink to the quality of the indoor air we breathe”, said Long Beach Health Department Director, Ronald R. Arias. “National Public Health Week is an excellent way we can communicate the importance of public health to our community and to our nation”.

The Health Department will be reaching out into the community during Public Health Week with several activities, including:

- Educational displays and brown bag educational sessions will be held each day at the main health facility at 2525 Grand Avenue. The public is invited to review the information and participate with Department staff in the “I Pledge” campaign, which features a pledge board and videotaped messages from staff and others committing their time or donations to improve their community.
- A special City Council Proclamation read by Mayor Foster will recognize the Department’s contributions to public health. The proclamation is scheduled to be read at the April 7, 2009 City Council Meeting and will be received by Department staff, Long Beach Cares and the Long Beach Board of Health and Human Services. The public and friends and family of the Health Department are all encouraged to attend.
- A Public Health Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2009 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Miller Family Health Education Center, located at 3820 Cherry Ave. The meeting will include presentations on food recalls, responsible pet ownership and maintaining a healthy home. The Town Hall Meeting will also feature a Q&A session with the City Health Officer.

For more information about any of the 2009 Public Health Week events, please call Judeth Luong or Nelson Kerr, Co-Chairs of the Health Department’s Public Health Week Committee, at (562) 570-4104 or (562) 570-4170 or log onto the Health Department’s website at [www.longbeach.gov/health/](http://www.longbeach.gov/health/)

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